

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01227 140937Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /106 W
-----049948 150251Z /73

R 131050Z JUN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6323
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1227

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR, IZ
SUBJECT: KURDISH AFFAIRS

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 1174 (NOTAL) (B) TEHRAN 5345
(C) BAGHDAD 1226 (NOTAL)

1. REF A, WHICH APPARENTLY CROSSED WITH REF B, MAY
PARTIALLY ANSWER TEHRAN'S QUERY. REF C ALSO PROVIDES
INFORMATION, WHICH WE DEEM VERY SPECULATIVE, ON POSSIBLE
COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN CURRENT KURDISH UNREST.

2. CLAIM OF KDP REP THAT TALABANI RECEIVING AID FROM
CHINA IS NEW TO US AND SEEMS UNLIKELY. CHINESE HAVE
MUCH TO GAIN BY CURRENT DOWNTOWN IN IRAQI RELATIONS
WITH SOVIET UNION, AND CHINESE AID TO KURDISH DISSIDENTS
COULD DEPRIVE THEM OF CHANCE TO APPEAR AS COMMUNIST
POWER MORE BENIGN THAN SOVIET VASCETY AND MUCH FARTHER
AWAY. IT SEEMS FROM HERE THAT BARZANI FORCES ARE USING
CHINA STORY AS A NEW EXCUSE FOR THEIR SLIPPAGE RELATIVE
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TO TALABANI ADHERENTS.

3. THERE IS MORE EVIDENCE THAT SULAIMANIYA AREA IS A
CURRENT TROUBLE SPOT. WESTERN TECHNICIAN WORKING IN
AREA RECENTLY RECEIVED AN ARMORED CAR ESCORT FOR
TRAVEL TO PROJECT SITE. BOTH TALABANI ADHERENTS
AND COMMUNISTS HAVE SHOWN STRENGTH IN THE PAST IN

SULAIMANIYA AREA. THEY PROBABLY STILL HAVE SOME SUPPORT, AT LEAST AMONG KURDISH INTELLECTUALS IN THE CITY OF SULAIMANIYA.

4. IF IRAQI ARMY WERE EVACUATING KURDS FROM 20 MILE STRIP ALONG BORDERS WITH IRAN AND TURKEY IT WOULD INDEED FORCE A MAJOR SHIFT OF POPULATION. 28,000 NEW HOUSING UNITS ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1978 IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION AS PART OF ONGOING RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS, BUT THIS WOULD SCARCELY BE ADEQUATE FOR THE DISPLACED POPULACE REPORTED IN REFTELS. AN EXPANSION OF THE PRESENT 10 KILOMETER NO MAN'S LAND ALONG THE BORDER TO 20 KILOMETERS REPEAT KILOMETERS SEEMS A SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY FIGURE, BUT WE HAVE NO LOCAL CONFIRMATION OF ANY EXPANSION AT ALL.

5. MOST OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE BORDER COOPERATION WITH BOTH IRAN AND TURKEY IS VERY CLOSE AND THAT INFILTRATION ACROSS THE IRAQI-IRANIAN BORDER IS VERY INFREQUENT. IRAQI STANCE TOWARD ACTIVITIES OF IRANIAN SHIA DISSIDENT AYATOLLA AL-KHOMEINI SEEMS PARALLEL TO IRANIAN RESTRICTIONS ON IRAQI KURDISH LEADERS. REPORTEDLY, IRAQIS DO NOT KNOWINGLY ALLOW AL-KHOMEINI TO SEND HIS EMISSARIES ACROSS THE BORDER, AND THE IRAQI MEDIA IS NOT ALLOWED TO PUBLICIZE HIS ACTIVITIES
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IN NAJAF. IT WORKS OUT TO A QUID PRO QUO WHICH MAY HELP TO KEEP BOTH GOVERNMENTS HONEST.
PECK

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Message Attributes

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